

DC
MAXI-SERIES 1 OF 12

1ST ISSUE COLLECTOR'S ITEM!

AMETHYST

PRINCESS
OF GEMWORLD

60¢
U.K. 25p
CAN. 75¢

★ ★ ★
NO. 1
MAY

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



DC
WHERE
THE
ACTION
IS!

YOU HAVE SHARED THE CHILD'S DREAM:
THE DREAM OF A LOST LEGACY--THAT
YOUR PARENTS ARE NOT REALLY YOUR
PARENTS...

...THAT YOU ARE A FOUNDLING,
A CHANGELING CHILD--AND
THE ORPHANED HEIR TO A
MYSTIC THRONE!

YOU HAVE KNOWN THE DREAM AND THEN
FORGOTTEN... BUT AMY WINSTON STILL
REMEMBERS-- BECAUSE, FOR AMY, IT IS
NO DREAM!...

AMETHYST

PRINCESS
OF GEMWORLD

THE BIRTHRIGHT



CREATED BY
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(WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO
DAVE MANAK.)

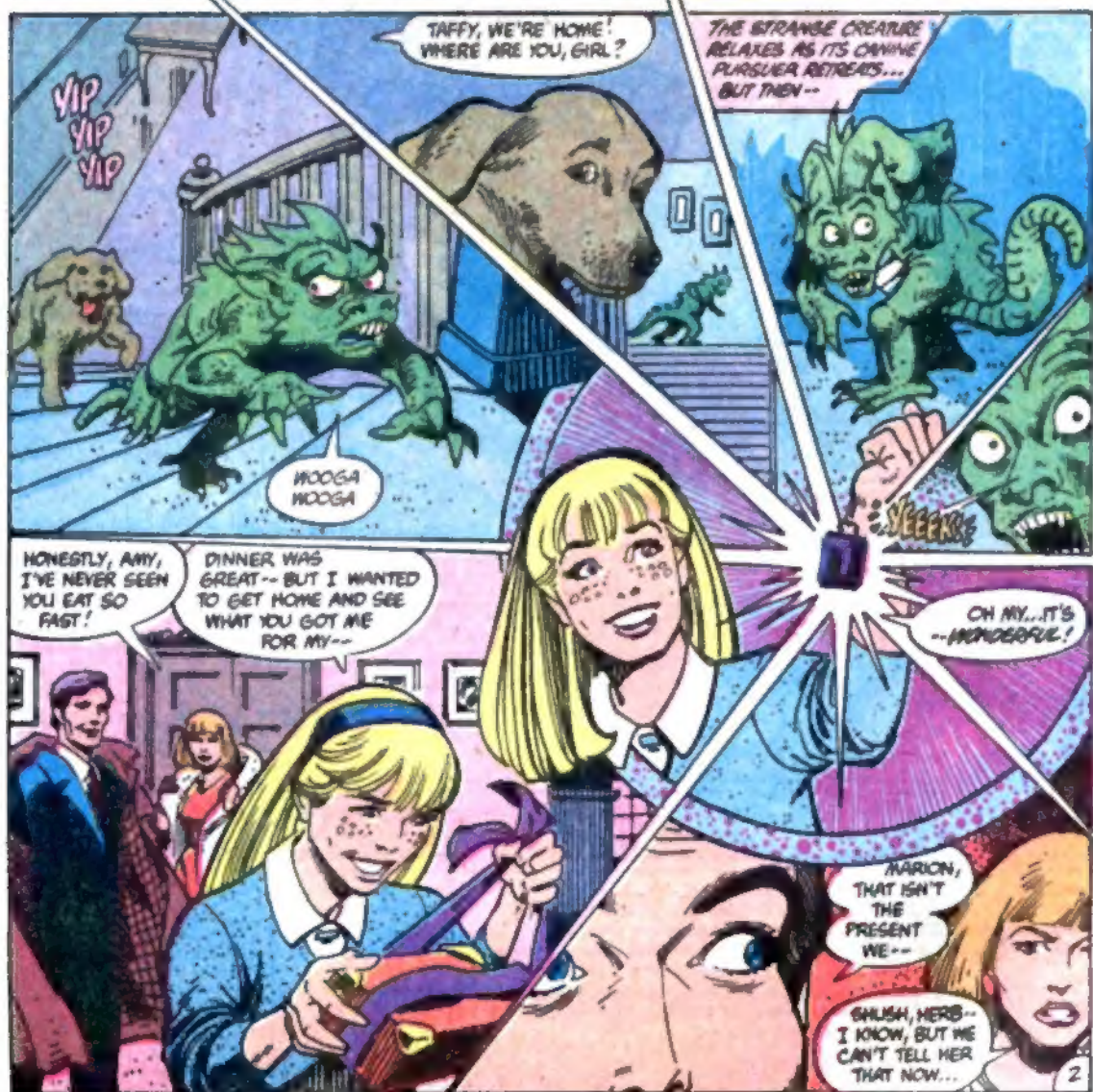
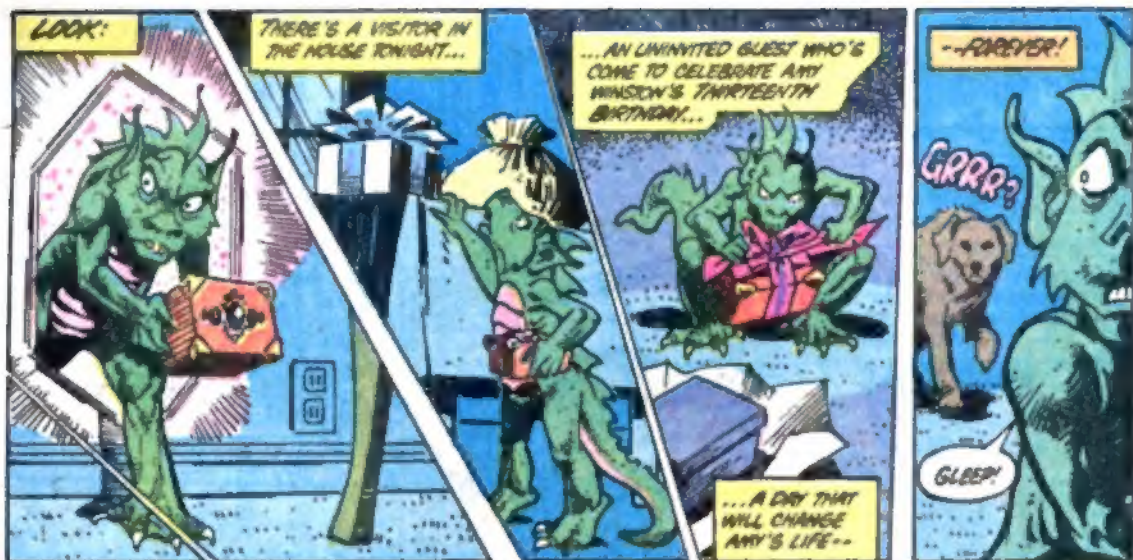
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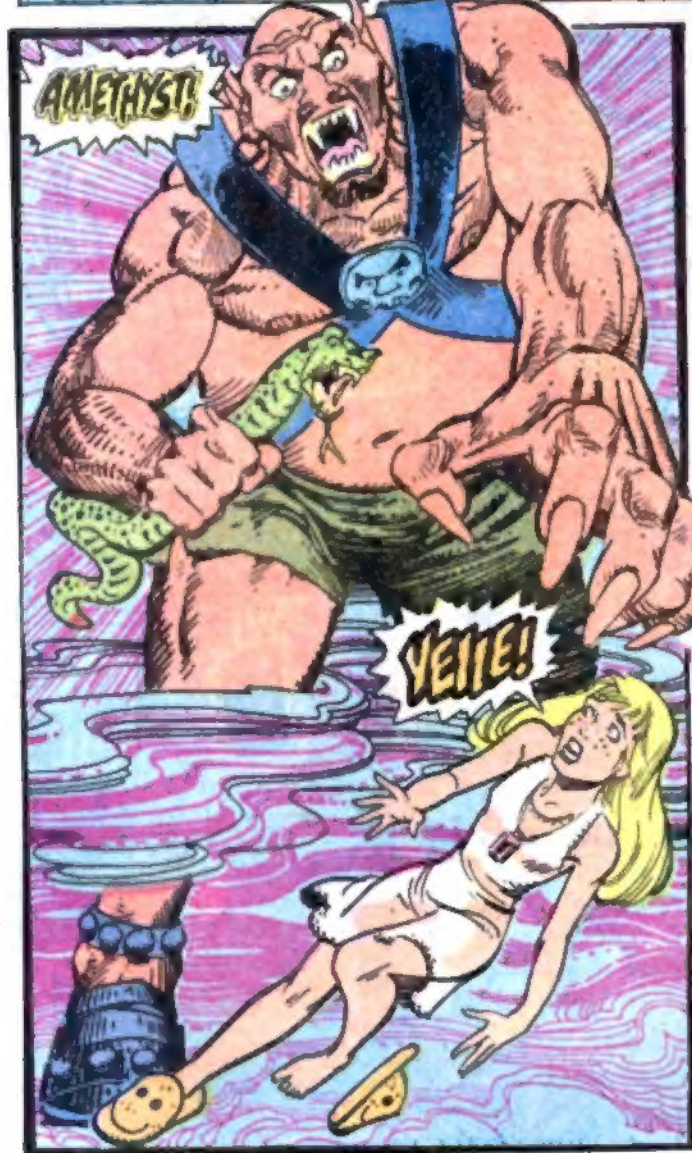
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AS THE NAME STRIKES DISTANT CHORDS OF MEMORY, ANNY FEELS AN INSTANT OF INCREDIBLE COLD...

...FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY UNBEARABLE HEAT--LIKE THE FIRE OF A THOUSAND SUNS RUSHING THROUGH HER...

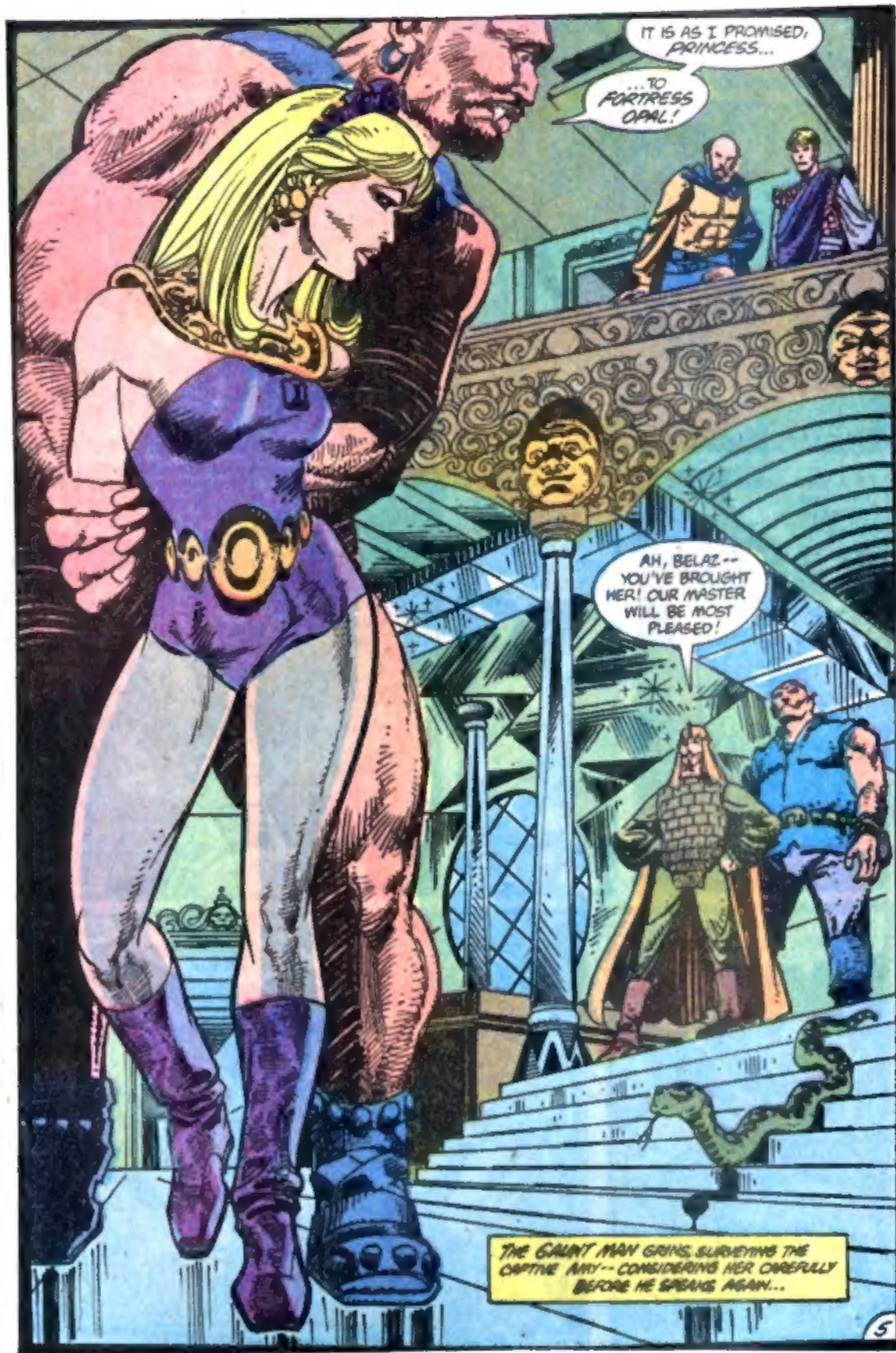


WHAT'S HAPPENING...? WHERE-- WHERE HAVE YOU TAKEN ME?!



IT IS AS THOUGH SHE'S BEING BORN AND DYING ALL AT ONCE--HER BODY UNDERGOING A TRANSFORMATION THAT HER MIND CANNOT COMPREHEND...



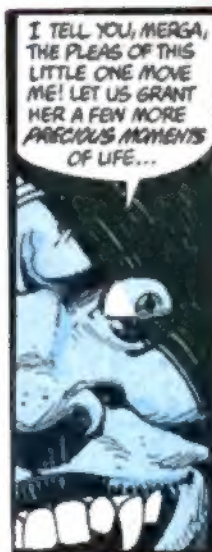
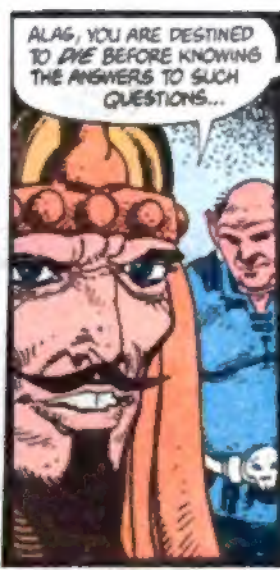


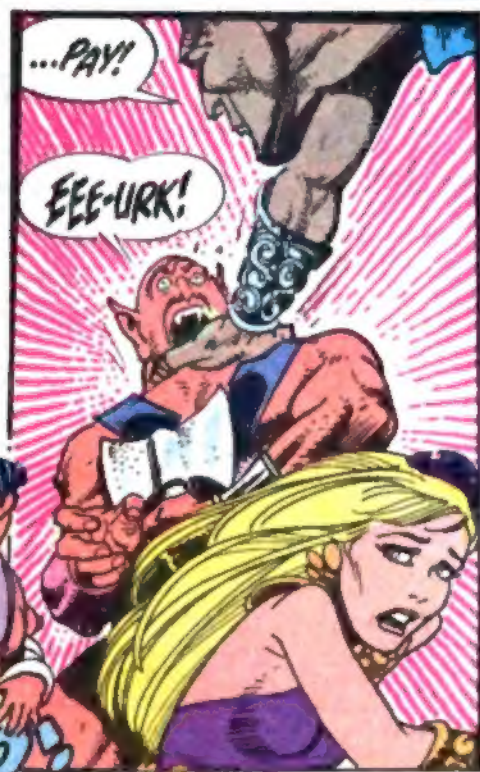
IT IS AS I PROMISED,
PRINCESS...

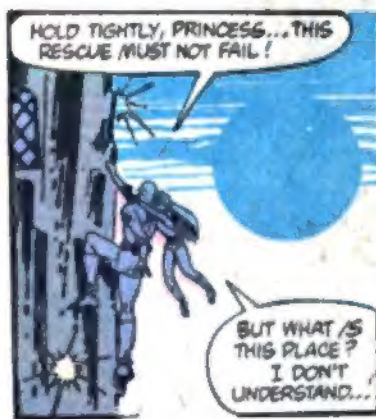
...TO
FORTRESS
OPAL!

AH, BELAZ--
YOU'VE BROUGHT
HER! OUR MASTER
WILL BE MOST
PLEASED!

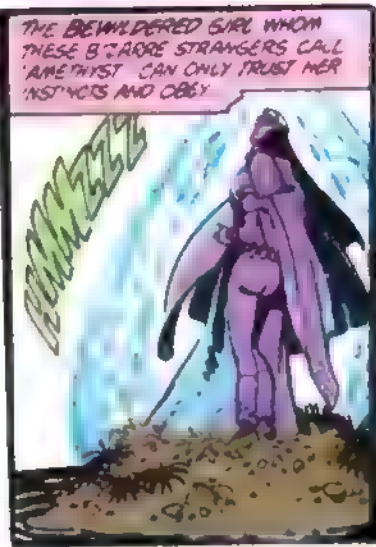
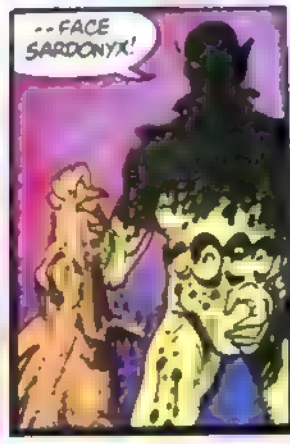
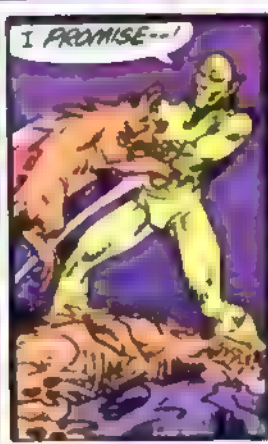
THE GAUNT MAN GRINS, SURVEYING THE
CAPTIVE AMY-- CONSIDERING HER CAREFULLY
BEFORE HE SPEAKS AGAIN...









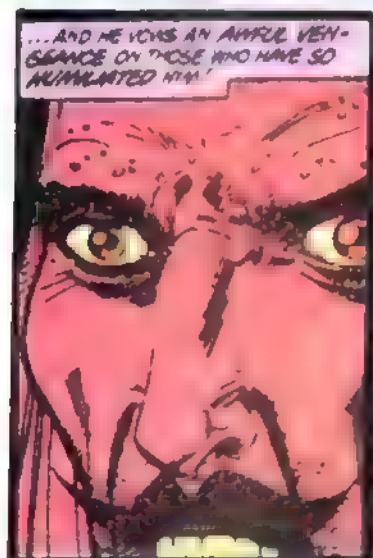




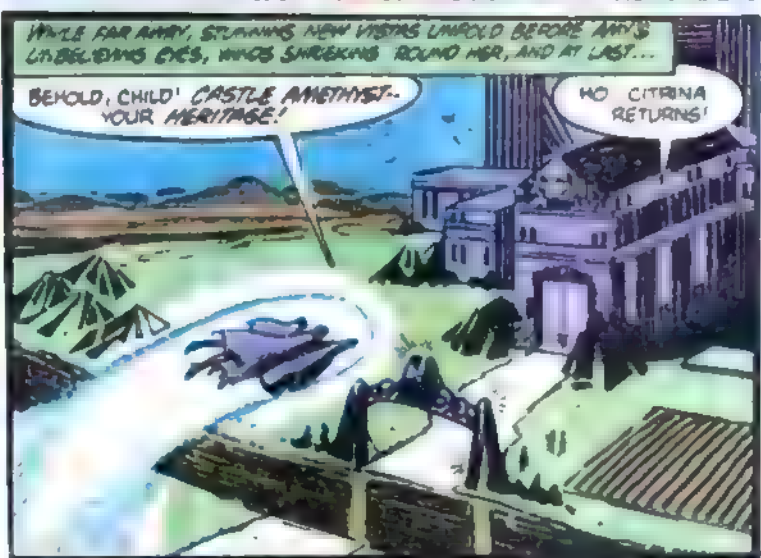
AND THAT HER ENEMIES ARE FAR BEHIND!



SARDONYX--CALLED THE LORD OF SERPENTS--KNOWS THAT HE MUST REPORT FAILURE TO HIS DARK AND TERRIBLE MASTER.



...AND HE VOWS AN AWFUL VENGEANCE ON THOSE WHO HAVE SO HUMILIATED HIM!



WHILE FAR AWAY, STUNNING NEW VISTAS UNFOLD BEFORE AMY'S UNBELIEVING EYES, WHOS SHREKING ROUND HER, AND AT LAST...

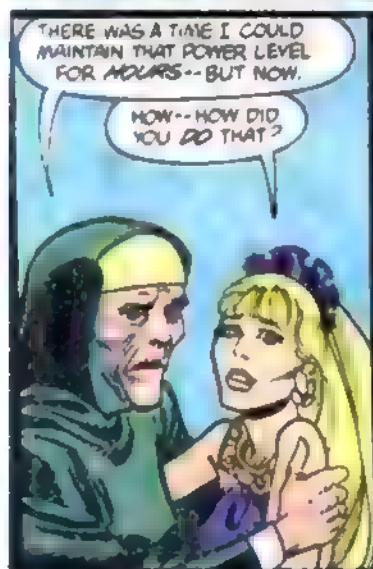
BEHOLD, CHILD! CASTLE AMETHYST--YOUR HERITAGE!

NO CITRINA RETURNS!



HELP ME STAND, AMETHYST...

I AM NEARLY DONE--



THERE WAS A TIME I COULD MAINTAIN THAT POWER LEVEL FOR HOURS--BUT NOW.

HOW--HOW DID YOU DO THAT?

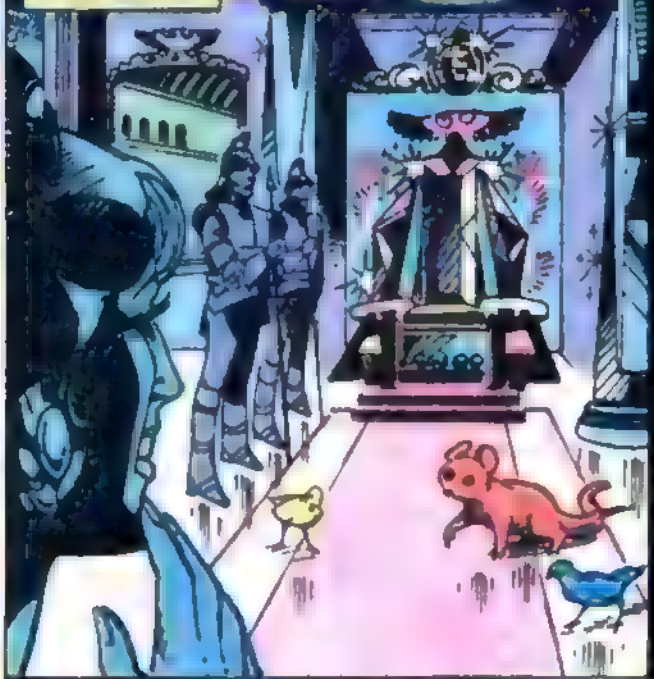


YOU WILL LEARN, MY CHILD! COME--HELP ME INSIDE

WITHIN THE CASTLE WALLS OF SHINING PURPLES AND VIOLETS AND ROSE, AMY FINDS A PLACE THAT SEEMS TO HAVE COME OUT OF A FAIRY TALE... OR A DREAM...



AND FROM HER HEART OF HEARTS A VOICE CALLS OUT, TELLING HER WITH UTMOST CONFIDENCE--THAT SHE HAS COME HOME...



GO WITH FAUNA AND LARAL, MY DEAR--THEY WILL SEE TO ALL YOUR NEEDS

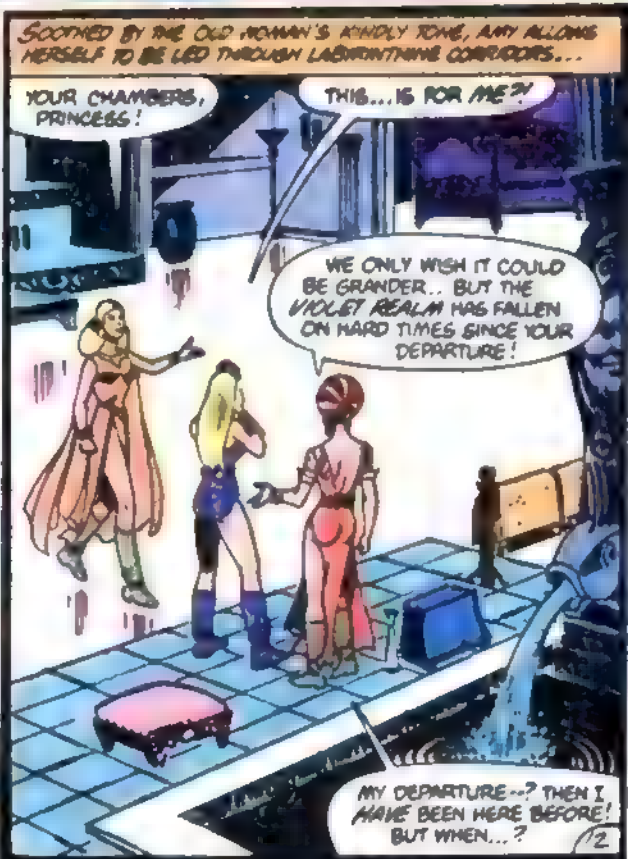


SOOTHED BY THE OLD WOMAN'S KINDLY TONE, AMY ALLOWS HERSELF TO BE LED THROUGH LABYRINTHINE CORRIDORS...

YOUR CHAMBERS, PRINCESS!

THIS... IS FOR ME?

WE ONLY WISH IT COULD BE GRANDER... BUT THE VIOLET REALM HAS FALLEN ON HARD TIMES SINCE YOUR DEPARTURE!



MY DEPARTURE--? THEN I HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE! BUT WHEN...?



IT IS NO PLACE TO DISCUSS SUCH MATTERS, PRINCESS... FORGIVE ME.

SURE, BUT--



COME-- YOUR BATH AWAITS

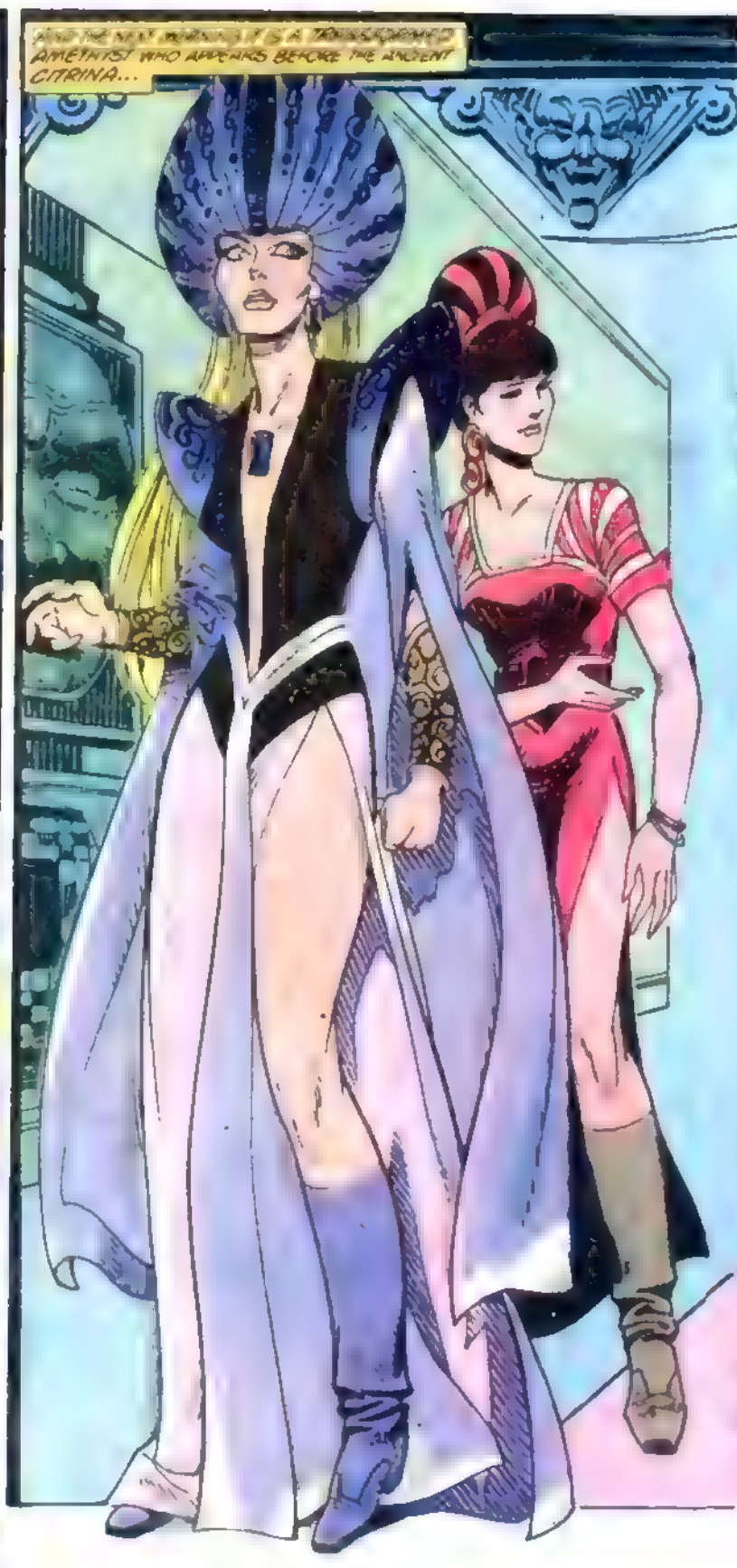
IT WILL EASE YOUR TROUBLED MIND.

AS SHE IS IMMERSSED IN THE WARM WATER, AMY'S SENSES ARE DAMPENED AS WELL.



HER FEARS AND MISGIVINGS DRIFT AWAY--

-- AND SHE IS LULLED INTO A PEACEFUL, DREAMLESS SLEEP.

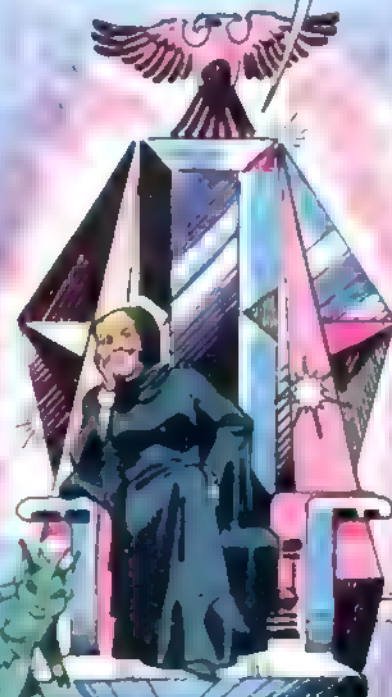


AND THE NEXT MORNING IT IS A TOWER-BORED AMETHYST WHO APPEARS BEFORE THE ANCIENT CITRINA...

MY CHILD, YOU ARE RESISTANT! MY HAPPINESS AT YOUR HOME-COMING KNOWS NO BOUNDS!

THANK YOU, CITRINA, BUT I'VE ALREADY GOT A HOME! AND MY PARENTS MUST BE WORRIED ABOUT ME!

AH, I SEE YOUR CONCERN... BUT REST ASSURED THAT YOUR EARTH PARENTS WILL--



BEFORE YOU WERE ANY WINSTON, YOU HAD ANOTHER LIFE... YOU WERE AMETHYST, HEIR TO THIS HOUSE!

AND THIS PLACE YOU HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO, SEPARATED FROM THE WORLD YOU KNOW BY FAST SLIPS OF TIME AND SPACE... IS THE GEMWORLD!

ONCE THE AIR WAS FILLED WITH JOY AND LIGHT... ONCE ALL ABIDED HERE IN HARMONY, FREE FROM SUFFERING AND WANT!

"TWELVE GREAT HOUSES RULED THE GEMWORLD, EACH CAPPED BY A GEMSTONE OF MYSTIC POTENCY..."

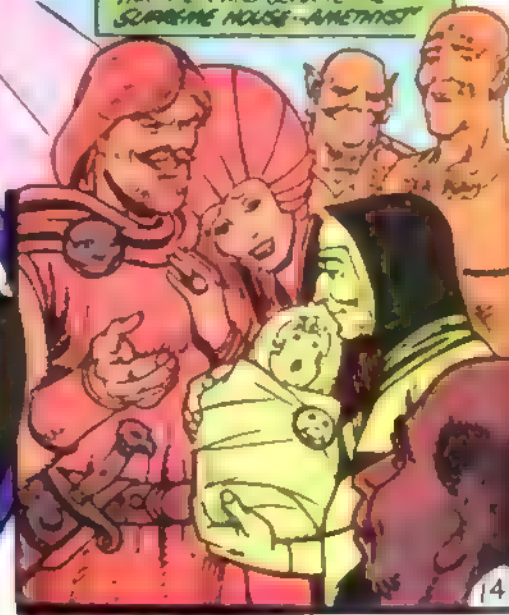
"ONLY THOSE OF ROYAL BLOOD COULD WIELD THE POWERS OF THESE BIRTHSTONES, AND A NEW HEIR WAS A CAUSE FOR PROFOUND REJOICING..."

"... ESPECIALLY WHEN THAT HEIR WAS BORN TO THE SUPREME HOUSE--AMETHYST"



MY... 'EARTH PARENTS'?"

YOU MUST REALIZE THAT YOU ARE NO LONGER ON EARTH, MY DEAR, BUT ON THE WORLD OF YOUR BIRTH!



"FOR LADY AND LORD AMETHYST WERE ALMOST UNIVERSALLY LOVED! THEY RULED NOT BY FORCE OF ARMS, BUT BY VIRTUE OF THEIR HONOR. AND FOR CENTURIES THEY GUIDED THE SEAMWORLD THROUGH A GOLDEN AGE OF PEACE AND PLENTY!"

"THEY WOULD STILL DO SO TODAY..."

"...IF NOT FOR THE DARK LORD OF THE HOUSE OF OPAL!"

"FOR HOW LONG DARK OPAL HAD BEEN PLOTTING TREASONOUSLY WE MAY NEVER KNOW. BUT WHEN HE STRUCK, HIS ARMIES WERE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE, SWEEPING AWAY ALL RESISTANCE!"

"FOUL PLOTS HE HAD FORGED WITH EVIL FORCES FROM DARK NETHER-WORLDS--"

"--AND THESE ROUGHT BESIDE HIS HORDES AND THOSE OF HIS ALLY, SARDONYX!"

"...THE WAR DID NOT LAST LONG!"

"BUT BEFORE ADY AND LORD AMETHYST FELL IN BATTLE, THEY CHARGED ME WITH THE PRESERVATION OF THEIR INFANT DAUGHTER!"



"I CREATED A RIFT IN TIME AND SPACE AND TOOK THE CHILD TO ANOTHER WORLD, AND THERE ENSURED HER SAFETY!"

"I--I WAS THAT INFANT? AND YOU ARRANGED MY ADOPTION?"

"WE SPREAD WORD THAT YOU HAD DIED-- BUT OPAL MUST HAVE SUSPECTED OTHERWISE!"

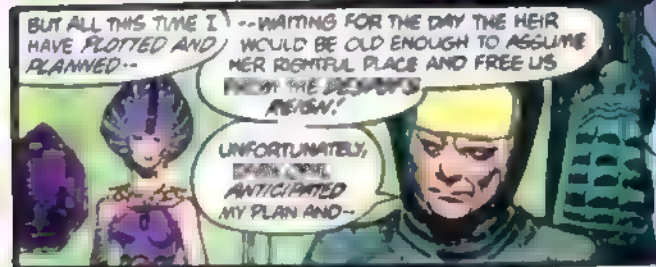
"AS THE SURVIVOR OF HIGHEST STATION IN THE HOUSE OF AMETHYST, IT FELL TO ME TO SWEAR FEALTY TO THE NEW RULER OF THE GEMMERS."



"BUT ALL THIS TIME I HAVE PLOTTED AND PLANNED--"

"--WAITING FOR THE DAY THE HEIR WOULD BE OLD ENOUGH TO ASSUME HER RIGHTFUL PLACE AND FREE US FROM THE DESPOT'S REIGN."

"UNFORTUNATELY, DARK OPAL ANTICIPATED MY PLAN AND--"



"--AND SENT HIS OGREES AFTER ME! I COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED! I STILL MIGHT BE!"

"WELL I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR 'PRINCESS AMETHYST'! I WANT TO BE AMY WINSTON AND I WANT TO GO HOME NOW!"

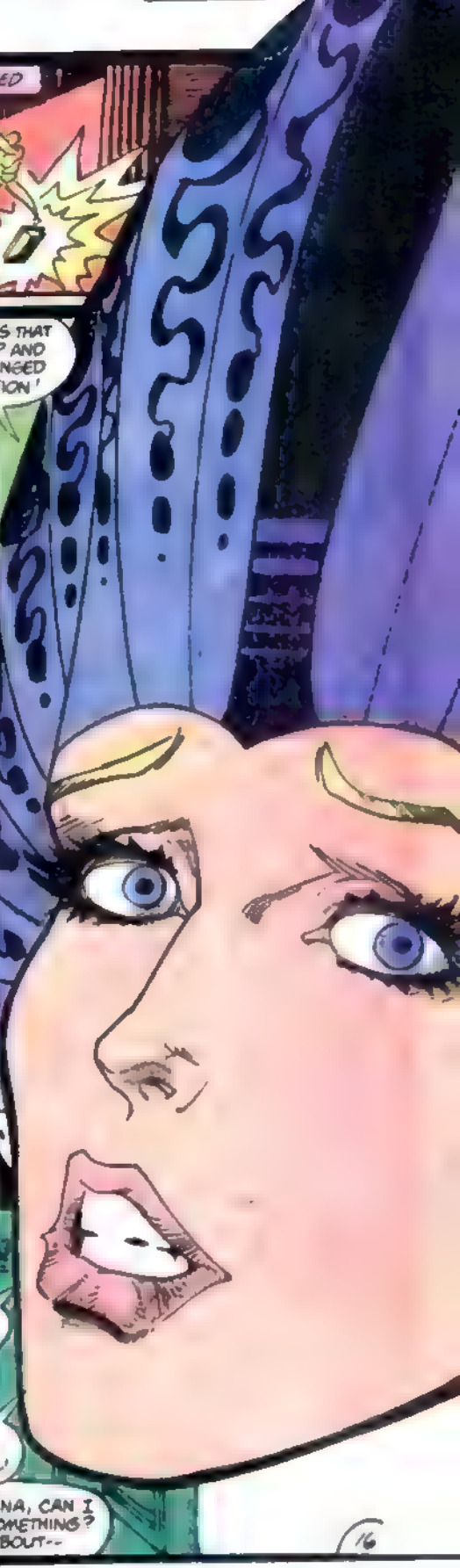
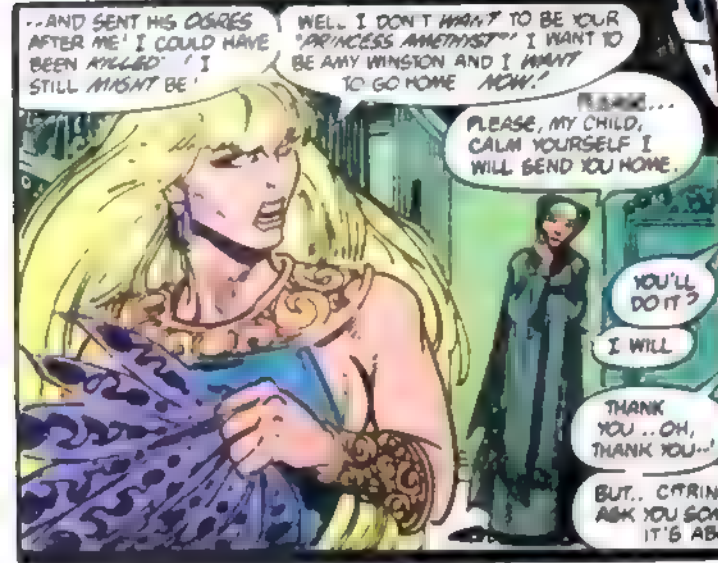
"PLEASE, MY CHILD, CALM YOURSELF. I WILL SEND YOU HOME."

"YOU'LL DO IT?"

"I WILL."

"THANK YOU... OH, THANK YOU..."

"BUT.. CRYNA, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING? IT'S ABOUT--"



I KNOW, CHILD...IT IS THE CHANGE IN YOUR BODY--AND WHAT THAT BODY FEELS.

YOU SEE, THE FLOW OF TIME DIFFERS FROM PLACE TO PLACE. DAYS HERE COULD BE HOURS ON EARTH--OR MOMENTS

THE THIRTEEN YEARS YOU HAVE SPENT ON EARTH HAVE PASSED AS TWENTY HERE. ON THE GEMWORLD YOU ARE A GROWN WOMAN.

SURPRIS--

THA-KA-BLOOM!

NO! HE WOULD NOT DARE!

WHO, CITRINA? WHAT'S GOING ON?

CITRINA--MISTRESS--WE ARE UNDER ATTACK BY THE HOUSES OF OPAL AND SARDONYX!

DAMN THEM! DAMN DARK OPAL--I HAD HOPED HE WOULD HESITATE TO ASSAULT US!

COME, AMETHYST--WE HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO!

BUT WHAT ABOUT SENDING ME HOME?

THAT MUST WAIT! YOU MUST DEFEND YOUR CASTLE!

BUT YOU PROMISED--!

YOUR PRESENCE HERE HAS PLACED EVERY MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF AMETHYST IN DANGER! WE NEED YOUR POWER!

BUT IT'S YOUR FAULT I'M HERE!

MEANWHILE

Wear

I've done the convention trail in spades this year.

Started in Philly in mid-April, ended at Creation Con in NY Thanksgiving weekend. Did Dallas, Phil Seuling's NY con, San Diego, Chicago, Atlanta, San Francisco, Boston and Wintercon in Oklahoma in between.

Almost learned how to sleep in a hotel bed and eat airline food without complaining... Almost (Thank God for some of the good restaurants in those cities and the people I went to them with.)

You gotta be some kind of nut to agree to be away from hearth and home for 10 weekends during the "nice" weather... or obsessed with the need to find new talent. Probably both.

Anyway, guys, I gotta report... There is talent out there in television land! I know because I sought it and I found it.

What I was doing at all those comic fan conventions is I was conducting a talent search. The conventions advertised that I would be there to give a talk on "How to Break into Comics" (Somehow that sounds like an illegal act!) and then to look at the portfolios of those fans who had brought them... And, yep, I found 25-30 who showed good promise. Asked 'em to do more samples and send them to me at DC. Most of these were better than the portfolios I looked at originally. Encouraging.

But now I had to keep up some kind of communication so that we'd still be talking to each other when (and if) these talented folk became good enough to start working professionally.

Sadly, I found I couldn't keep up this communication properly

and still handle my regular workload, so you know what I did? I hired someone to handle that job full-time! To communicate with talented folk who can write or draw but aren't sure what to do next.

His name is Sal Amendola, his job is Talent Coordinator, and he's the man at DC to convince that you're the next Marv Wolfman or the next Frank Miller.

I had lunch with Sal yesterday and he asked me to pass along these sensible suggestions to those who feel they have the abilities needed for a career in comics and want to send along samples through the mail.

To wit:

1) Mail copies of your work. Not the originals. Xeroxes or photostats will be fine.

2) Pack them securely. A piece of heavy cardboard in the envelope discourages postal employees from bending the package.

3) Use sufficient postage for first class mail or special handling. Any more expensive class will be a waste of money.

4) Put someone's name on the envelope, not just DC Comics. If you want it to reach Sal Amendola's desk (I do!), put his name on it.

5) Put your name and address on every page! Sample art often becomes separated from the accompanying letter and the envelope is most often thrown away. Also, individual pages are sometimes separated from the rest. Your name on every page guarantees that we know whose work we're looking at, no matter what.

6) A self-addressed, stamped envelope assures the return of your material although we try to

return everything anyway. In any case, our response will be faster if you include an SASE.

Good luck!

Guess what I did from April to November when I wasn't getting on airplanes to go to conventions?

Give up?

I was getting on airplanes to go to Atari (another Warner Communications company).

Atari HQ is located in a place called Silicon Valley (read Sunnyvale, CA) and I made a hell-doesn't-or-more trips there between conventions. That was heady stuff... Atari is a neat company. I especially enjoyed working with the programmers. They're a lot like comic people... young, creative, fun-loving, and we felt comfortable with each other as we created **ATARI FORCE** and **SWORDQUEST**.

If you don't know what **ATARI FORCE** and **SWORDQUEST** are (been hibernating?), they're two comic book series produced by DC Comics for Atari to be packed in with certain cartridges. So far, **ATARI FORCE** numbers 1, 2 and 3 have appeared in "Defender", "Berserk" and "Star Raiders" cartridges and **SWORDQUEST** numbers 1 and 2 in cartridges called "EarthWorld" and "FireWorld" respectively.

If you bought these exciting electronic game cartridges, you know that the comics were an added plus to the general gameplay fun at no additional cost.

Fear not, friends... We'll not forget those of you who have yet to enjoy these games. Sometime in 1983, a new, more exciting version of **ATARI FORCE** will be on the newsstands and the entire **SWORDQUEST** saga will probably be available in a larger size than the original and released by DC as an album or a mini-series or a series of graphic novels.

SWORDQUEST was written by Roy Thomas and Gerry Conway, drawn by George Perez, and inked and edited by yours truly.

The "new" **ATARI FORCE** book will be written by Gerry Conway and Roy Thomas and drawn primarily by Jose Garcia-Lopes.

These should be knock-outs. Look for 'em.

Wearier and wearier. Thank you and good after ~~XXXXXXXX~~

Dick

THAT DOES NOT MATTER NOW! THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS DEPEND ON YOU-- AND THAT IS A RESPONSIBILITY YOU CANNOT FORSAKE!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS, AMETHYST?

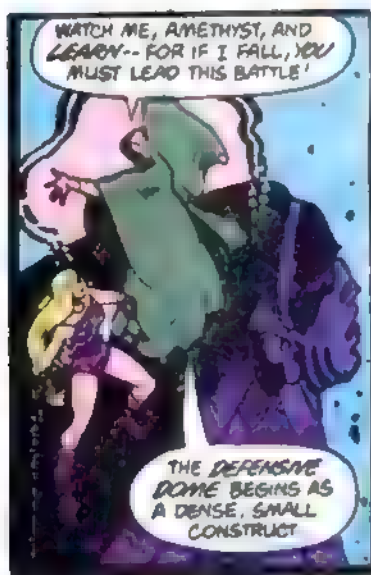
I--I GUESS SO

GOOD-- THEN STAY BY MY SIDE!

IT IS HERE THAT WE SHALL MAKE OUR STAND! DAUGHTER-- THOUGH I FEAR IT MAY BE THE MOST FUTILE OF DEFENSES...

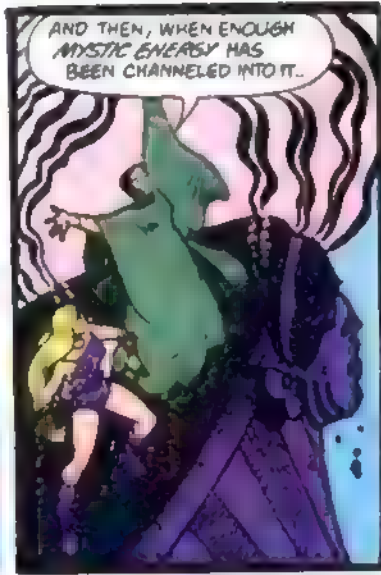
...AGAINST SUCH POWER AS THE ARMED MIGHT OF THE HOUSE OF ORAC!





WATCH ME, AMETHYST, AND
LEARN-- FOR IF I FALL, YOU
MUST LEAD THIS BATTLE!

THE DEFENSIVE
DOME BEGINS AS
A DENSE, SMALL
CONSTRUCT



AND THEN, WHEN ENOUGH
MYSTIC ENERGY HAS
BEEN CHANNELLED INTO IT..



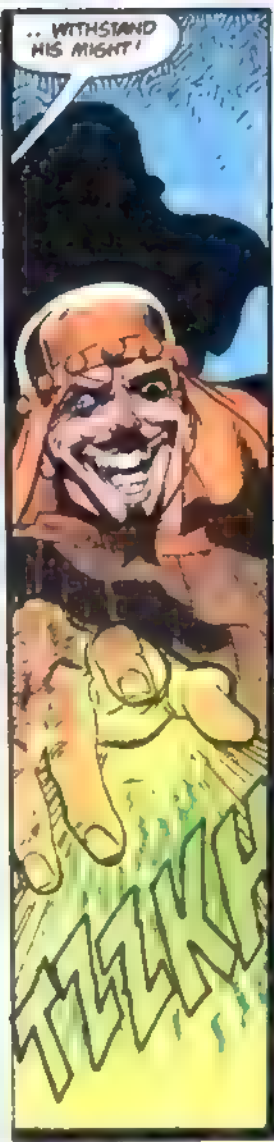
IT-- IT'S
GROWING!



CITRINA--
WHAT'S
WRONGS?!

MY STRENGTH--
MY--POWER
IS FAR LESS
THAN THAT
OF.. LORD
SARDONYX--!

I.. CANNOT



.. WITHSTAND
HIS MIGHT!



SENSING THAT VICTORY
IS IMMINENT, THE
FORCES OF OPAL RENEW
THEIR ASSAULT ON CASTLE
AMETHYST WITH RE-
DOUBLED FURY..

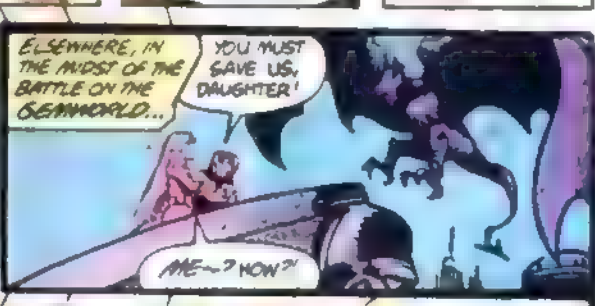
FOR THE DARK LORD!
FOR THE OPAL!



AND ATOP THE
HIGHEST TOWER OF
THE BELEAGUERED
CITADEL...

CITRINA ?!

EARTH WHILE MANY HOURS HAVE PASSED ON THE GEMWORLD, IT HAS ONLY BEEN MOMENTS SINCE HERB AND MARION WINSTON HEARD THEIR DAUGHTER'S STRIDED CRY...



YOU HAVE THE POWER! YOU HAVE THE AMETHYST STONE AND YOU STAND ON HOME GROUND!

FEEL THE POWER SURGE THROUGH YOU...! LET IT CREATE THE SPELL!

LORD SARDONYX--
LOOK!

IT COMES IN ONE AWESOME,
OVERWHELMING WAVE

...AND AS AMETHYST
HURLS THE MYSTIC
PURPLE ENERGY OUTWARD--

--SHE EXPERIENCES AN ECSTASY
OF WILD ABANDON SUCH AS SHE
HAS NEVER IMAGINED...

...AN OCEANIC EPIPHANY OF
POWER AND RAGE--

--THAT DEVASTATES THESE INVADERS
FROM THE HOUSE OF OPAL!

FOR A MOMENT OF STUNNED
CALM, THE BATTLE SEEMS
OVER...

...BUT STILL THE
LORD OF SERPENTS
WILL NOT ACCEPT
DEFEAT!

YOU HAVEN'T WON YET, CITRINA!
IF I CANNOT CAPTURE AMETHYST,
I CAN KILL HER!

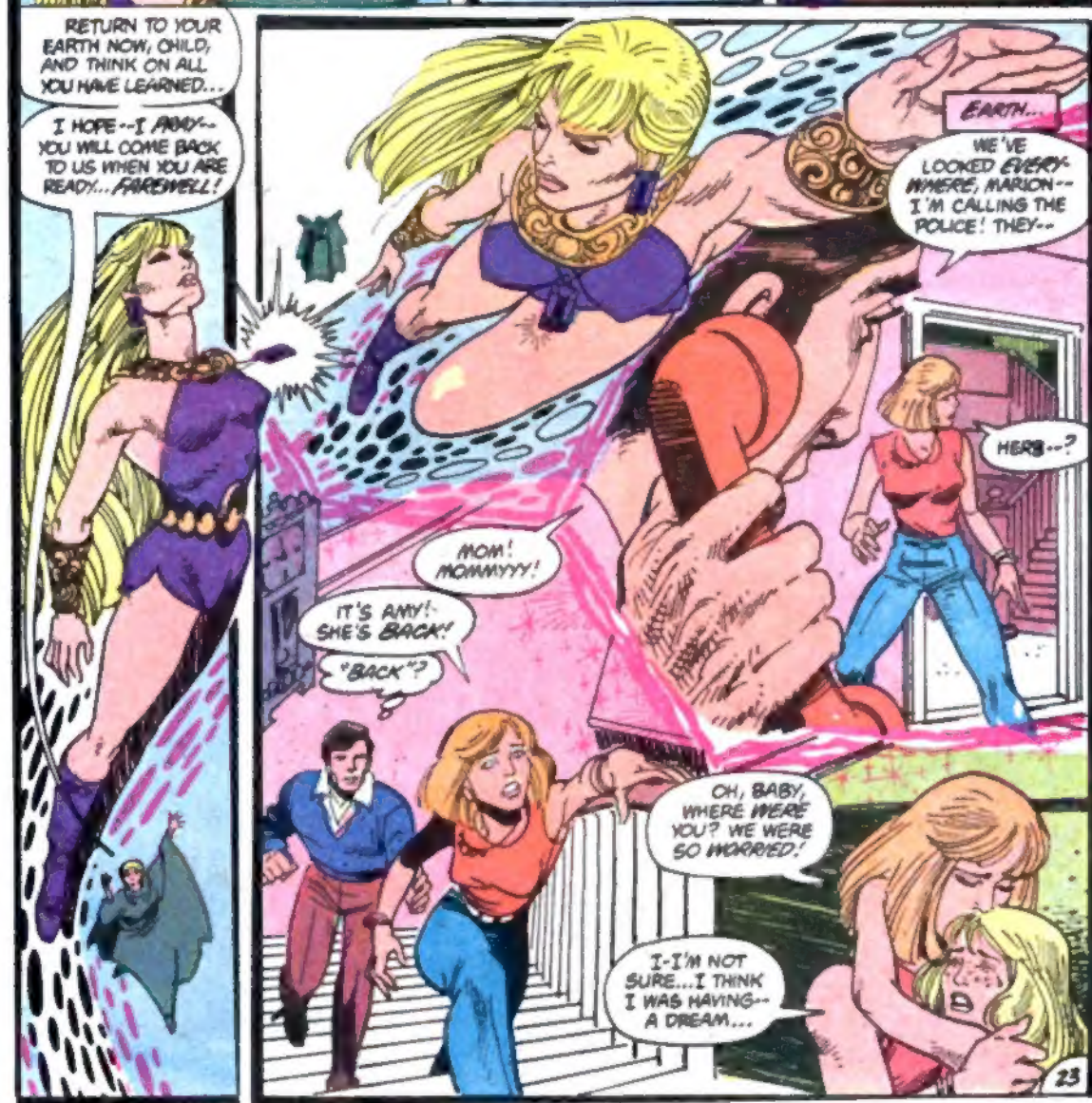
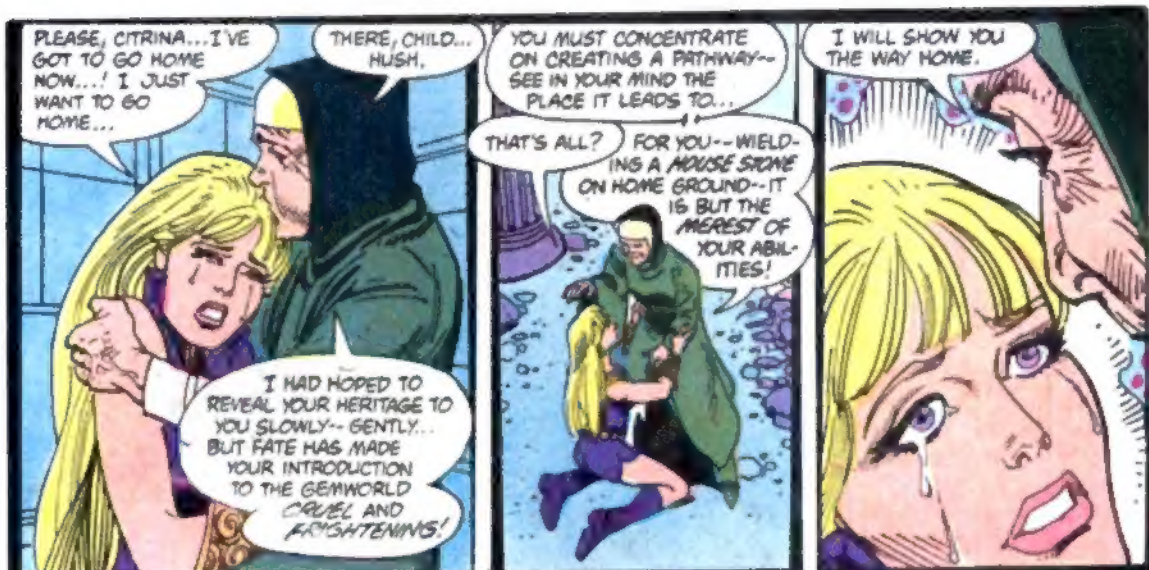
NEVER,
GARDONYX! TELL
YOUR MASTER TO
COME FOR US HIMSELF
NEXT TIME!

OR PERHAPS WE
SHALL COME FOR
HIM!

ONLY AT YOUR PERIL,
OLD WITCH-- FOR YOU
HAVE INCURRED THE WRATH
OF THE OPAL!

MY DEAR, YOU
WERE MAGNIFICENT!
YOU WERE...

WHY--WHAT IS
WRONG? WHAT
IS THE MATTER,
MY CHILD?



...OR A NIGHTMARE... --OR-- SOMETHING...

THE GEMWORLD, WHERE A CONTRITE SARDONYX REPORTS HIS FAILURE TO THE GRIM LORD OF THE HOUSE OF ORAL...

YOU DARE TO TELL ME THAT YOUR ENTIRE ARMY WAS ROUTED BY AN UNTRAINED GIRL!?

HER POTENTIAL IS AWESOME, LORD! IF YOU HAD SEEN...

I TREMBLE TO CONSIDER HER POWER ONCE SHE HAS BEEN TUTORED--! SHE MUST BE STOPPED!

BUT YOU HAVE FAILED ME... TWICE!

THAT, DEAR FRIEND--

--IS PRECISELY WHY I ENTRUSTED YOU WITH HER CAPTURE!

I AM GRAVELY DISAPPOINTED WITH YOU, SARDONYX...

WHAT SHALL I DO WITH YOU NOW?

NO MORE CHANCES FOR YOU, SARDONYX! I HAVE SENT ANOTHER TO FETCH THE PRINCESS TO ME!

BUT FEAR NOT--I AM INSUFFICIENTLY DISPLEASED TO DISPOSE OF YOU AND YOUR SERVICES INADEQUATE AS THEY MAY BE!

BUT UNTIL I CALL FOR YOU AGAIN...

STAY OUT OF MY SIGHT!

DO...? LORD ORAL, I HAVE BEEN YOUR FAITHFUL SERVANT FOREVER!

PLEASE ALLOW ME ONE MORE CHANCE...

WUP!

